

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(54) PRODUCTION OF CHITOSAN GEL HAVING DECREASED VISCOSITY

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain the subject product having excellent workability in film- forming, etc., in a short time by passing AC current through a chitosan gel, thereby lowering exclusively its viscosity without decreasing the molecular weight of chitosan.

CONSTITUTION: The objective product is produced by passing an AC current of usually 5-20A through a chitosan gel for 50-300hr. The chitosan get is produced usually by adding chitosan powder, an aqueous solution of an organic acid and optionally a calcium salt to water, mixing the product and leaving standing the chitosan solution at room temperature to 70°C for 1-30hr to effect the swelling of the gel. The quantity of the AC current can be decreased by using a chitosan gel containing calcium ion or using chitosan powder treated with a non-equilibrium low-temperature plasma.